THE SHAPE-SHIFTING INFECTION SPREADS ACROSS THE DC UNIVERSE!

TITANS BEAST WORLD #2

DAWN OF DC

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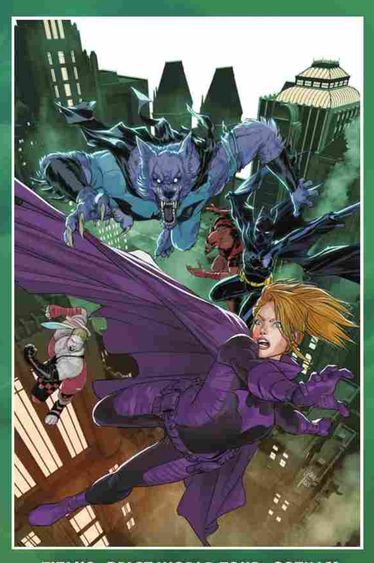
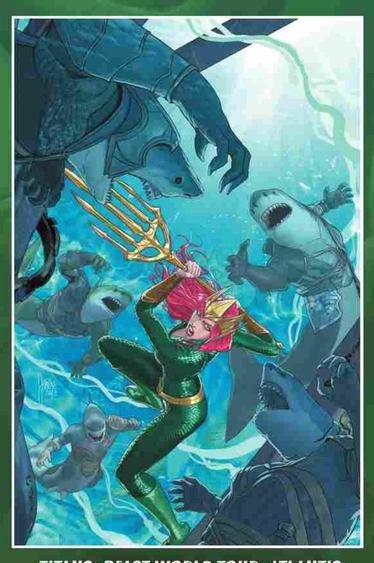
WRITTEN BY
TOM TAYLOR

ART BY
IVAN REIS

TITANS: BEAST WORLD #3
COVER BY IVAN REIS



TITANS: BEAST WORLD TOUR: GOTHAM
COVER BY MIKEL JANÍN



TITANS: BEAST WORLD TOUR: ATLANTIS
COVER BY MIKEL JANÍN

TITANS #6 COVER BY CLAYTON HENRY

DC'S UNPRECEDENTED TITANS EVENT CONTINUES THIS DECEMBER

- *TITANS: BEAST WORLD: WALLER RISING*
- *TITANS: BEAST WORLD TOUR: METROPOLIS*
- *TITANS: BEAST WORLD #2*
- *TITANS: BEAST WORLD TOUR: GOTHAM*
- *ACTION COMICS #1060*
- *TITANS: BEAST WORLD TOUR: CENTRAL CITY*
- *NIGHTWING #109*
- *TITANS: BEAST WORLD #3*
- *TITANS #6*

=SIGH=

NOW WHO DO I HAVE TO BLAME FOR THIS...?

BRENDA?

THE FLOWERS ARRIVED THIS MORNING, WITH A CARD.

DO YOU WANT ME TO READ IT, MS. KORD?

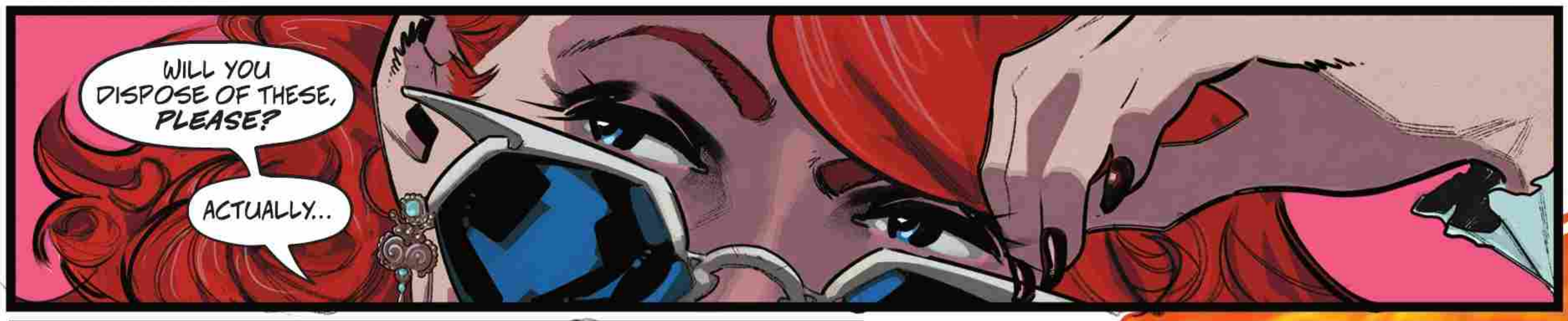
"SINCEREST CONDOLENCES TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY DURING THIS DIFFICULT TIME. I'M ALWAYS HERE TO LEND A SHOULDER TO CRY ON.
--LEX"

LEX?

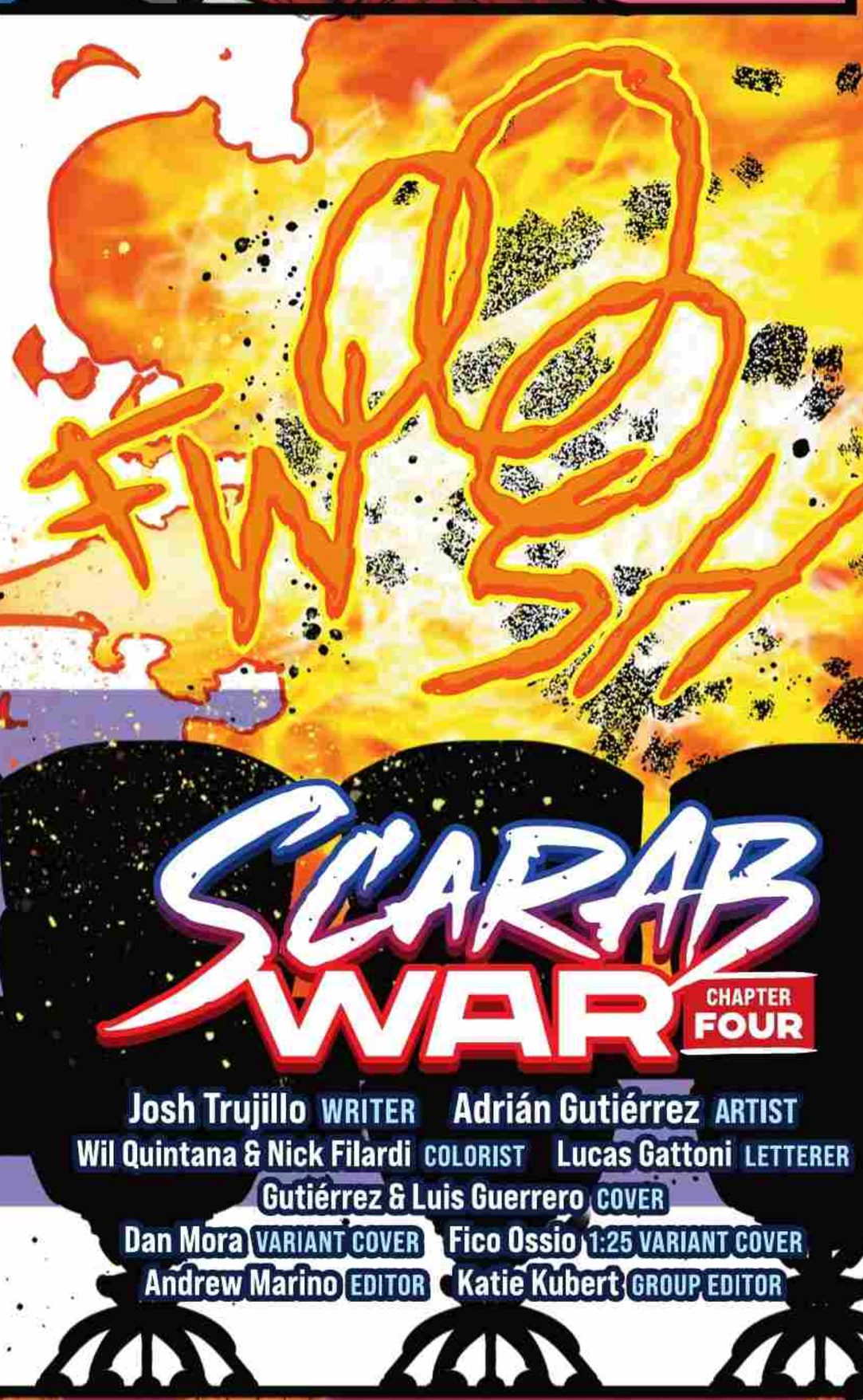
LUTHOR?!

MAD SCIENTISTS ONLY WANT ONE THING, BRENDA--*YOUR BRAIN!* NEVER GIVE THEM A SECOND THOUGHT...

...BESIDES, HE'S IN *PRISON.*


WILL YOU DISPOSE OF THESE, PLEASE?
ACTUALLY...

...I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS MYSELF.


FIRE SKY
SCARAB WAR
CHAPTER FOUR
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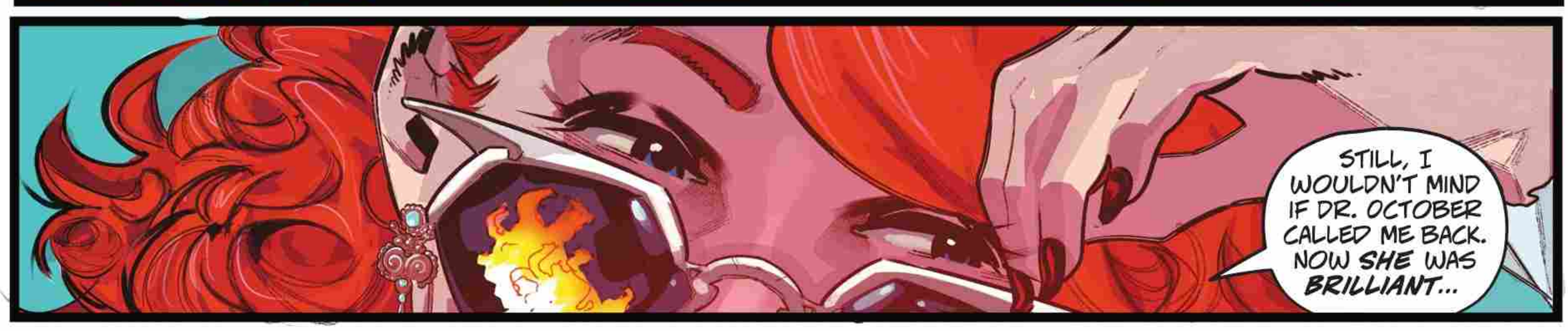
Adrián Gutiérrez ARTIST
Wil Quintana & Nick Filardi COLORIST
Lucas Gattoni LETTERER
Gutiérrez & Luis Guerrero COVER
Dan Mora VARIANT COVER
Fico Ossio 1:25 VARIANT COVER
Andrew Marino EDITOR
Katie Kubert GROUP EDITOR

UM... UM...
THAT'S ALL FOR TODAY. YOU CAN GO NOW!

WITH ALL THAT'S BEEN HAPPENING, THE LAST THING I NEED IS A ROMANTIC ENTANGLEMENT. HM.


STILL, I WOULDN'T MIND IF DR. OCTOBER CALLED ME BACK. NOW SHE WAS BRILLIANT...

"WHY DOES LOVE HAVE TO BE SO *COMPLICATED?*"

STOP, JAIME! THE FLOORS ARE CLEAN ENOUGH!

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? NOBODY ASKED YOU TO WORK OVERTIME!

I'M JUST...*WORRIED* ABOUT YOU TWO, GLORIA.

WORRIED?

WHY?!

IS THIS ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED THE OTHER DAY?

WE'RE NOT AFRAID!

SHE'S RIGHT. WE'RE MADE OF ***STRONGER*** STUFF THAN THAT. THE BROKEN WINDOW IS ALREADY REPLACED, AND...

...OH.

THIS IS ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FRIEND TED, ISN'T IT?

...

YES.

AND YOU'RE AFRAID WE'LL GET HURT, TOO.

I'M AFRAID *ALL* OF YOU ARE GOING TO GET HURT, TÍA MARISOL!

WHEN THAT *TERRIFYING MOTHER OF YOURS* THREW YOU OUT OF THE HOUSE AND INTO OUR ARMS, DO YOU KNOW WHAT WE SAID?

WHAT?

"NO!"

THAT'S WHY YOU CAN'T LIVE IN FEAR.

OTHERWISE YOU END UP WITH A *GOOFY TEENAGER* WHO'S ALWAYS LATE FOR HIS--

HEY!

WE'RE *SO PROUD* OF YOU AND WHAT YOU DO FOR *THE WORLD,* MIJO.

BUT YOU CAN'T CLEAN THE FLOOR FOR THE *TENTH TIME!*

NOW GO!

I THOUGHT HE'D NEVER LEAVE.

WE'RE GOING TO BE LATE FOR THE DRAG SHOW!

I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE *QUEEN LANTERN* AND *SLAYFACE!*

JAIME...?

HUH?!

OO'LI?

I THINK WE SHOULD TAKE A WALK.

=SIIIGH=

GUERRERO MARINO!!

I'M ALREADY TIRED OF THESE DAMN CAMERAS WATCHING US 24/7...

XIOMARA...?

PACO, I TOLD YOU I DIDN'T--!

I'M SORRY! I JUST WANTED TO CHECK ON YOU! PLEASE DON'T THROW ME IN THE OCEAN!

AND I'M CHECKING ON THE OTHERS, TOO. OBVIOUSLY!

ROMA AND SHEPHERD OOD ARE OKAY.

AND YOU?

MAYBE YOU NEED SOMEONE TO TALK TO!

WE CAN GRAB A QUICK DINNER AND HEAD RIGHT BACK! I PROMISE!

FINE.

Egypt.

PEH PEH PEH PEH...

YOU FAILED.

I DIDN'T KNOW HE HAD SOME KIND OF *WITCH* WITH HIM!

I CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS ANYMORE!

YOU MUST, JAVIER BASUALDO...

...OR YOU DIE!

I MUST ADMIT PALMERA CITY IS FULL OF BEAUTY, BUT ALSO FULL OF ***CONTRADICTIONS,*** JAIME.

HOW DO YOU MEAN?

THE KEYS VERSUS THE HUB, OLD VERSUS NEW, PROGRESS VERSUS TRADITION.

ALIEN VERSUS TERRESTRIAL.

HORIZON CULTURE IS MUCH LESS INTERESTING. ***UNIFORM, UNIFIED.***

ALL IN SERVICE OF OUR COLLECTIVE MISSION: ***SURVIVAL.***

HOW DO YOU LIVE WITH ***ENDLESS INTERNAL CONFLICT?***

WE'RE JUST...***USED TO IT,*** I GUESS?

AND EVEN WITHIN THESE STRUGGLES THERE ARE OTHER POINTS OF VIEW, AND SUBCULTURES, AND ***INDIVIDUALISM! IT MAKES NO SENSE!***

IT MAKES ME LAUGH HOW ***CHAOTIC*** AND ***UNPREDICTABLE*** YOUR WORLD IS.

YOU HAVE A LOT OF, UH, CRITICAL THINGS TO SAY ABOUT HUMANITY.

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU ACTUALLY LIKE ABOUT US?

IT'S ONE OF THOSE HORIZON!

THEY'RE ALL OVER THE CITY THESE DAYS!

?

MAYBE WE SHOULD GO SOMEWHERE MORE PRIVATE?

SNAP

!

?

?

MY PHONE! IT SHUT OFF!

SO DID MINE!

WHAT DO I LIKE ABOUT HUMANITY?

THEIR CURIOSITY.

HOW DID YOU...?

IT'S MY GIFT.

MAYBE IT WAS OUR CENTURIES ON BOARD OUR STARSHIP, BUT SOMEHOW WE HORIZON DEVELOPED THE ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE WITH TECH-NOLOGY.

ALL HORIZON SHARE THIS GIFT, BUT MINE IS FAR MORE DEVELOPED THAN EVEN MY FATHER'S.

STILL, IT WAS USELESS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE BLOOD SCARAB.

I FEAR WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN THEY RETURN.

WHEN I FOUGHT THE BLOOD SCARAB, I HAD THE CHANCE TO END THINGS RIGHT THERE, BUT I...I HESITATED.

YOU SHOWED WEAKNESS.

YOU WIELD ALMOST LIMITLESS POWER. THERE IS NO OBSTACLE YOU CANNOT OVERCOME.

BUT YOUR HESITANCY PUTS US ALL AT RISK.

I KNOW.

IT WAS NOT A RASH DECISION TO SUMMON DYNASTES AND NITIDA TO OUR CAUSE-- TO DESTROY YOU. WE HAD RUN OUT OF OPTIONS. EARTH WAS OUR *LAST HOPE.*

ALL WE KNEW WAS THAT OUR SWORN ENEMIES, THE REACH, WERE ON THIS PLANET, OR AT LEAST THEIR *GREATEST WEAPON* WAS.

WHEN FACED WITH AN *ULTIMATE EVIL,* YOU MUST DO THE *UNTHINKABLE.*

SURVIVAL IS EVERYTHING, JAIME.

YOU'VE GIVEN ME A LOT TO THINK ABOUT, OO'LI.

I SHOULD GO.

VERY WELL. DO KNOW I'VE ENJOYED OUR DATE.

OUR *WHAT?!*

ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU CALL THIS? A "DATE"?

SHOWING ME YOUR WORLD, SHARING *INTIMATE* CONVERSA-TION...?

...

UH, *GOTTA GO!*

KHAJI, CAN YOU CALL UP *STARFIRE?*

YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD AT THIS!

ME? LOOK AT YOU!

WHERE I COME FROM I, HOW DO YOU SAY IT, ***WEAR A LOT OF HATS?***

THE STUDENTS NEED HELP WITH THEIR LONG DIVISION, ***I'M THERE.*** THEY NEED SOMEONE TO TEACH THE DANCE CLASS, ***I GOT IT.***

CARING FOR MY STUDENTS, MY ***COMMUNITY,*** IS WHAT HELPS ME GET UP IN THE MORNING.

AND WHAT ABOUT YOU? WHAT WAKES YOU UP EACH DAY?

RIGHT NOW? ***STATISTICS CLASS.***

I'M SO BEHIND!

I ***THINK*** I HAVE A GOOD HANDLE ON IT, BUT BRENDA SAYS I--

HOLD ON!

WHAT IS IT?

IT'S JAIME.

OH, HI.

DO YOU THINK HE'S IN TROUBLE?

HE'S ***ALWAYS*** IN TROUBLE.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

YOU'RE ***NEW*** TO THE SUPERHERO LIFE, SO LET ME EXPLAIN...

THERE'S ***ALWAYS*** SOMETHING GOING ON! FIRST IT WAS THE REACH, THEN IT WAS A WHOLE BUNCH OF WEIRD STUFF, THEN ***I KINDA DIED,*** THEN IT WAS YOU AND ROMA, AND NOW...

...JAIME'S LIFE IS CHAOS. IT'S ALL PART OF THE DEAL.

WHEN I FOUGHT THE BLOOD SCARAB HE GRABBED ME BY THE THROAT AND--I DON'T KNOW HOW TO DESCRIBE IT--IT WAS LIKE HE WAS STEALING MY, MY, MY ***POWER!***

THAT WAS DAYS AGO AND I ***STILL*** DON'T FEEL LIKE I'VE FULLY RECOVERED.

JAIME'S SCARAB IS THE MOST POWERFUL OF THEM ALL. IF THEY SOMEHOW GET AHOLD OF IT--

THAT WON'T HAPPEN.

HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE?

BECAUSE WE WON'T LET IT HAPPEN.

WE CAN'T.

WHEN WE WERE KIDS, JAIME HAD MY BACK. BEFORE I WAS THE ***PRIME SPECIMEN*** YOU SEE NOW, I WAS A LITTLE, UH, GORDO.

HE AND BRENDA WERE THE ***ONLY*** ONES WHO MADE ME FEEL LIKE I BELONG.

YOU DIDN'T JUST JOIN TEAM BEETLE, YOU'RE PART OF ***FAMILIA DE ESCARABAJO*** NOW!

THAT ***LOYALTY,*** THAT ***LOVE,*** IT'S ALWAYS GUIDED US. I'LL ALWAYS BE THERE FOR HIM...

...AND FOR ***YOU.***

HEY, YOU! **GOLDIE!**

DIDJA MISS ME?

FADEAWAY?!

AND... SORRY. I DON'T KNOW THE *OLD LADY.*

GIMMIX.

CHARMED, I'M SURE.

WE'VE HAD OUR *DISAGREEMENTS,* I KNOW, BUT I'VE COME TO *SAVE YOUR BUTTS!*

DOES *BLUE* STILL WORK AT THAT *GREASY SPOON?* I'M *STARVING!*

OH, $#%& THIS!

HOW CAN I HELP, JAIME? YOU HAVE ME CONCERNED.

I WISH I KNEW. THINGS KEEP GETTING *WORSE!*

THE BLOOD SCARAB IS ATTACKING THE PEOPLE I CARE ABOUT.

I CAN'T BE EVERYWHERE AT ONCE, AND I KNOW THEY'RE GOING TO STRIKE AGAIN. IT'S ***OVER-WHELMING.***

THESE ***FEARS*** ARE RACING THROUGH MY HEAD ALL THE TIME, THINKING ABOUT WHAT THEY'RE GOING TO DO NEXT. WHO THEY'RE GOING TO TARGET.

JUST TRY TO BREATHE, JAIME.

WE'LL COME UP WITH A PLAN AND WE'LL TAKE THE FIGHT TO THE BLOOD SCARAB DIRECTLY.

I DID THAT, AND IT WAS A **DISASTER!**

THIS ISN'T SOME BANK ROBBER IN A MASK. THEY'RE GOING AFTER *MY FAMILY*, STARFIRE!

THIS IS *DIFFERENT*. I DON'T WANT TO SEE THEM LOCKED UP IN SOME ASYLUM, ONLY TO ESCAPE AGAIN AND AGAIN.

I THINK I NEED TO *END IT.*

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, JAIME?

I WANT THEM *GONE!*

AND I... I'M READY TO DO IT.

I'M SO-- SO ANGRY! I NEARLY GOT TRACI AND ME KILLED.

I CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN AGAIN.

JAIME, YOUR EMPATHY IS WHAT MAKES YOU STRONG! IT'S WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE HERO.

THEY'RE NOT GOING TO STOP UNTIL I DO SOMETHING!

I'D NEVER FORGIVE MYSELF IF MORE PEOPLE GOT HURT.

I WAS RAISED AS A WARRIOR, BUT I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE THERE IS ALWAYS ANOTHER PATH.

IF WE WORK TOGETHER WE CAN--

NO. IT'S LIKE MADAME XANADU TOLD ME...

...ONLY I ALONE CAN STOP THEM.

YOU'RE NEVER ALONE.

TO TAKE A LIFE, HOWEVER NOBLE YOUR INTENTIONS, IT WILL *CHANGE YOU.*

I KNOW.

I'M NOT GOING TO CONVINCE YOU OTHERWISE, AM I?

I WON'T LET THE BLOOD SCARAB HURT ANYONE ELSE, STARFIRE.

IF THIS WILL SAVE MY FAMILY, I HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE.

I'LL STAND BY YOUR SIDE NO MATTER WHAT, BUT ARE YOU SURE THIS IS THE RIGHT IDEA?

OF COURSE NOT, BUT IT MIGHT BE OUR BEST CHANCE.

TED NEVER GIVES UP, AND NEITHER WILL I--!

X'HAL.

I HOPE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GETTING YOURSELF INTO.

I'M SURPRISED YOU CALLED.

IT'S ***IMPORTANT.*** I NEED YOUR HELP.

I DON'T CARE.

THAT SCARAB OF YOURS IS A ***CURSE.*** FIRST YOU AND YOUR LITTLE BAND OF ***VANDALS*** WRECKED MY LAB, STOLE MY PROPERTY-- ***STOLE MY OWN BROTHER!***

WHAT COULD I POSSIBLY GAIN FROM HELPING YOU?

TED AND I WERE RAISED TO ***INHERIT THE WORLD.*** YOU CAN'T ***POSSIBLY*** UNDERSTAND THE ***RESPONSIBILITY*** AND ***SCRUTINY*** WE WERE UNDER!

WE NEARLY ***DROWNED*** BENEATH THE WEIGHT OF OUR ***POTENTIAL.*** WHEN WE WERE CHILDREN, ALL WE HAD WAS ***EACH OTHER.***

OUR ***BELOVED UNCLE*** WAS ***MURDERED*** IN AN ACT OF ***SENSELESS VIOLENCE.*** THEN THE SAME THING HAPPENED TO OUR ***FATHER...***

...KILLED BY A BUNCH OF ***OUTSIDERS*** AND ***PRETENDERS!****

*FOR MORE ABOUT DEAD KORDS, CHECK OUT BLUE BEETLE #2 (1967) AND FOREVER EVIL #1! --ANDREW

TED BECAME ***OBSESSED*** WITH HIS CONCEPT OF "***JUSTICE.***" ALL HE WANTED TO DO WAS ***PUT OUT FIRES*** WITH HIS IDIOT FRIENDS, WHILE I HAD ***LOFTIER GOALS.***

I DIDN'T JUST HAVE TO SAVE THE WORLD-- I KNEW WE COULD **CHANGE THE WORLD.**

IS MY BROTHER EVEN *ALIVE?*

YES! TED'S SOMEWHERE SAFE. I DON'T KNOW WHERE, BUT IT'S BETTER THAT WAY.

HOW CONVENIENT.

I FOUGHT THE THING THAT DID THIS TO TED.

THEY CALL IT THE *BLOOD SCARAB,* AND IT'S SCARY AS HELL. IT WANTS US ALL DEAD... *ESPECIALLY ME.*

I'M LISTENING.

IF YOU WANTED TO *KILL* SOMEONE LIKE...

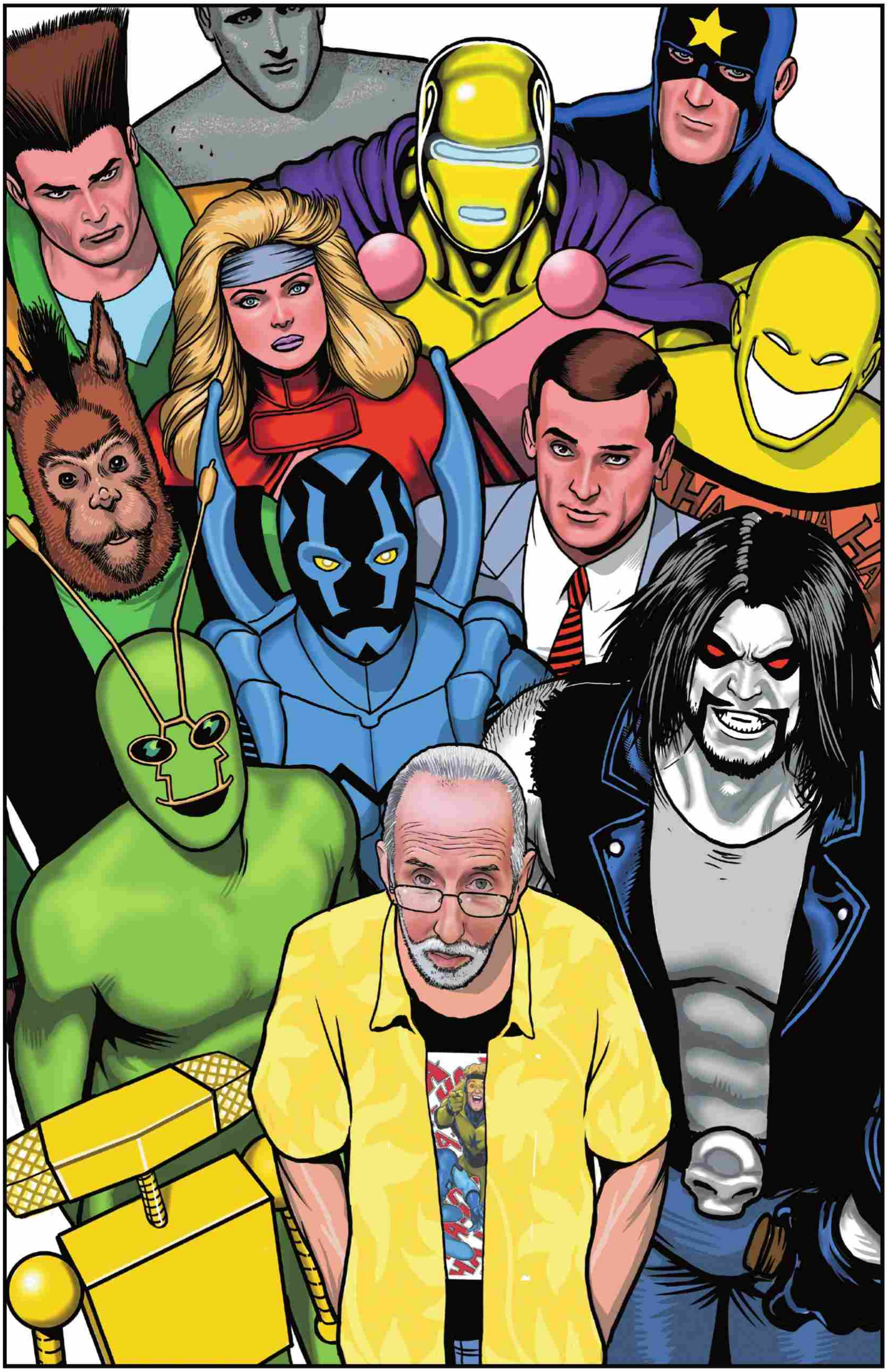
...ME.

HOW WOULD YOU DO IT?

WHAT AN INTERESTING THOUGHT.

NEXT:

THE WHITE-HOT LIGHT



KEITH GIFFEN

1952 - 2023

KEITH GIFFEN WAS ONE OF THE MOST BRILLIANTLY CREATIVE HUMANS EVER TO WORK IN COMICS, THE JACK KIRBY OF MY GENERATION OF CREATORS. HE WAS A CURMUDGEON WITH A HEART OF GOLD. AN OLD, DEAR FRIEND. AND, AS MY WIFE OBSERVED, "HE WAS LIKE A CHARACTER OUT OF A KEITH GIFFEN STORY." SAFE TRAVELS, KEITH. YOU WILL BE MISSED.

–J.M. DeMATTEIS

KEITH WAS A CREATIVE FORCE OF NATURE, GIFTED WITH THE ABILITY TO BOLDLY AND ENDLESSLY PULL HIS CREATIONS FROM A BLANK PAGE AS WE WATCHED IN AMAZEMENT. HE EFFORTLESSLY CONJURED STORIES FROM SOME MYSTICAL PLACE, WITH RAZOR-SHARP WIT THAT WOULD HAVE YOU SMILING ONE MOMENT AND SOCK YOU IN THE GUT THE NEXT. KEITH, WE HOLD YOU IN OUR HEARTS FOREVER.

–HOWARD PORTER

KEITH GIFFEN'S BRILLIANCE AS BOTH WRITER AND ARTIST IS EXEMPLIFIED BY THE INCREDIBLE BREADTH OF HIS WORK OVER MORE THAN 45 YEARS. THAT CREATIVE ENERGY, ALONG WITH HIS ABILITY TO MOVE THROUGH A CASCADE OF IDEAS THAT DIDN'T WORK UNTIL HE FOUND ONE THAT DID, WAS PRIZED BY EVERYONE WHO COLLABORATED WITH HIM.

–DAN JURGENS

I ASKED KEITH ONCE, "WHAT'S THE SECRET TO YOUR CAREER LONGEVITY?" HE SAID, "FIGURE OUT WHAT YOU DO BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE AND OWN THAT LANE. WHEN PUBLISHERS WANT IT, THEY'LL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO COME TO YOU." THE THING IS, KEITH DIDN'T OWN A LANE. HE OWNED THE WHOLE HIGHWAY. I MISS YOU, MY FRIEND.

–MARK WAID

KEITH HAD THE MOST FERTILE AND IMAGINATIVE MIND IN COMICS IN MY GENERATION. IT WAS A DELIGHT TO BUILD OUT THE FUTURE OF THE DC UNIVERSE WITH HIM.

–PAUL LEVITZ

I OWE MUCH OF WHAT I HAVE TODAY TO KEITH. WE'VE BEEN FRIENDS EVER SINCE I WAS THAT HIGH SCHOOL GIRL DRAWING LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES ART IN FANZINES. HE CALLED ME THE "LITTLE SISTER I NEVER WANTED." BUT IF I HAD WANTED ANOTHER BROTHER, KEITH WOULD HAVE BEEN EVERYTHING I WOULD HAVE ASKED FOR.

–COLLEEN DORAN

HAVING A HARD TIME FINDING THE RIGHT WORDS. ALL I KNOW IS THAT KEITH WOULD BE ANNOYED BY THIS WHOLE THING, BUT IF ANYONE TRULY DESERVED PRAISE AND APPRECIATION FROM THE COMICS INDUSTRY, IT WOULD BE KEITH. I GUESS IT'S A GOOD THING HE'S NOT HERE TO SEE IT.

–DAN DiDIO

KEITH WAS A MASTER STORYTELLER, FULL OF GOOD IDEAS, AND WHEN HE KNEW HE WAS RIGHT HE WOULD FIGHT THE BATTLE UNTIL THE END. THERE ARE NO MORE BATTLES TO FIGHT, MY FRIEND.

–BRIAN MILLER

ANDY HELFER ONCE TOLD ME, "IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE FIRST IDEA KEITH GIVES YOU, WAIT A MINUTE, AND HE'LL PITCH YOU ANOTHER ONE. AND IF YOU DON'T LIKE THAT ONE, WAIT A MINUTE, AND HE'LL HAVE ANOTHER ONE. YOU DON'T HAVE TO TAKE THE FIRST IDEA OFF THE TOP OF THE DECK FROM KEITH." KEITH WAS BRIGHT AND RESOURCEFUL ENOUGH THAT I ALWAYS TOOK THE FIRST IDEA OFF THE TOP OF THE DECK.

–JOEY CAVALIERI

KEITH WAS THE YOUNGEST GRUMPY OLD MAN I EVER MET–AND THAT WAS ONE OF THE REASONS WHY I LOVED HIM. THE HOURS, DAYS, MONTHS, AND YEARS WE SPENT WORKING AND PLAYING TOGETHER WERE SOME OF THE BEST IN MY TIME AT DC. WITH THE FACILITY OF A KURTZMAN, KEITH COULD PENCIL-SKETCH A FULL ISSUE OF *JLA* IN AN HOUR. AS PART OF THE *JUSTICE LEAGUE* CREW, HE WAS THE FULCRUM THAT BALANCED THE REST OF US, AND HE WILL BE MISSED.

–ANDY HELFER

I'M ALSO WORKING ON THE THIRD [*JLI*] OMNIBUS COVER, AND NOW, LOOKING AT ALL THESE KEITH GIFFEN CHARACTERS LOOKING AT ME, IT FEELS UNSURPRISINGLY MELANCHOLY. A WISE-ASS UNTIL THE END. MAY THE WINGS OF ANGELS FLY YOU ON YOUR NEW ADVENTURE, YOU MAGNIFICENT BASTARD!

–KEVIN MAGUIRE

KEITH POSSESSED AN INCREDIBLE ABUNDANCE OF TALENT, HAD A FEARLESS TAKE ON EVERY PROJECT ASKED OF HIM, AND CREATED SOME OF THE MOST ABSURD, OVER-THE-TOP, AND HILARIOUS CHARACTERS EVER. TRULY A MASTER OF EVERY FACET OF THE CRAFT OF MAKING COMICS AND A CREATIVE DYNAMO LIKE NO OTHER.

–JIM LEE

WHEN I WAS A KID, KEITH GIFFEN WAS MY FAVORITE COMIC BOOK CREATOR. IT WAS HIS WORK ON *LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES* AND *JUSTICE LEAGUE* THAT FIRST CAUGHT MY ATTENTION, AND THEN IT WAS HIS EVER-EVOLVING ART STYLE THAT SHOWED A KID LIKE ME THAT YOU COULD HAVE A WEIRD DRAWING STYLE AND STILL MAKE GOOD COMICS. KEITH'S CURMUDGEONLY STYLE HID A HEART OF GOLD AND AN ENDLESSLY RESTLESS CREATIVE SPIRIT. HE WILL BE MISSED. BY ME AND SO MANY FANS AND READERS.
REST IN PEACE, KEITH, AND THANK YOU.

–JEFF LEMIRE

Art by Kevin Maguire. Characters: Garryn Bek, Stone Boy, Manga Khan, General Glory, Andromeda, Heckler, G'nort, Blue Beetle (Jaime Reyes), Maxwell Lord, Ambush Bug, Lobo, L-Ron, and Keith Giffen.
Expanded tributes: dc.com/rememberingkeithgiffen.

PEACE ON EARTH, KRAMPUS IN GOTHAM

Batman–Santa Claus Silent Knight

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Written by
JEFF PARKER

Art by
MICHELE BANDINI

DC

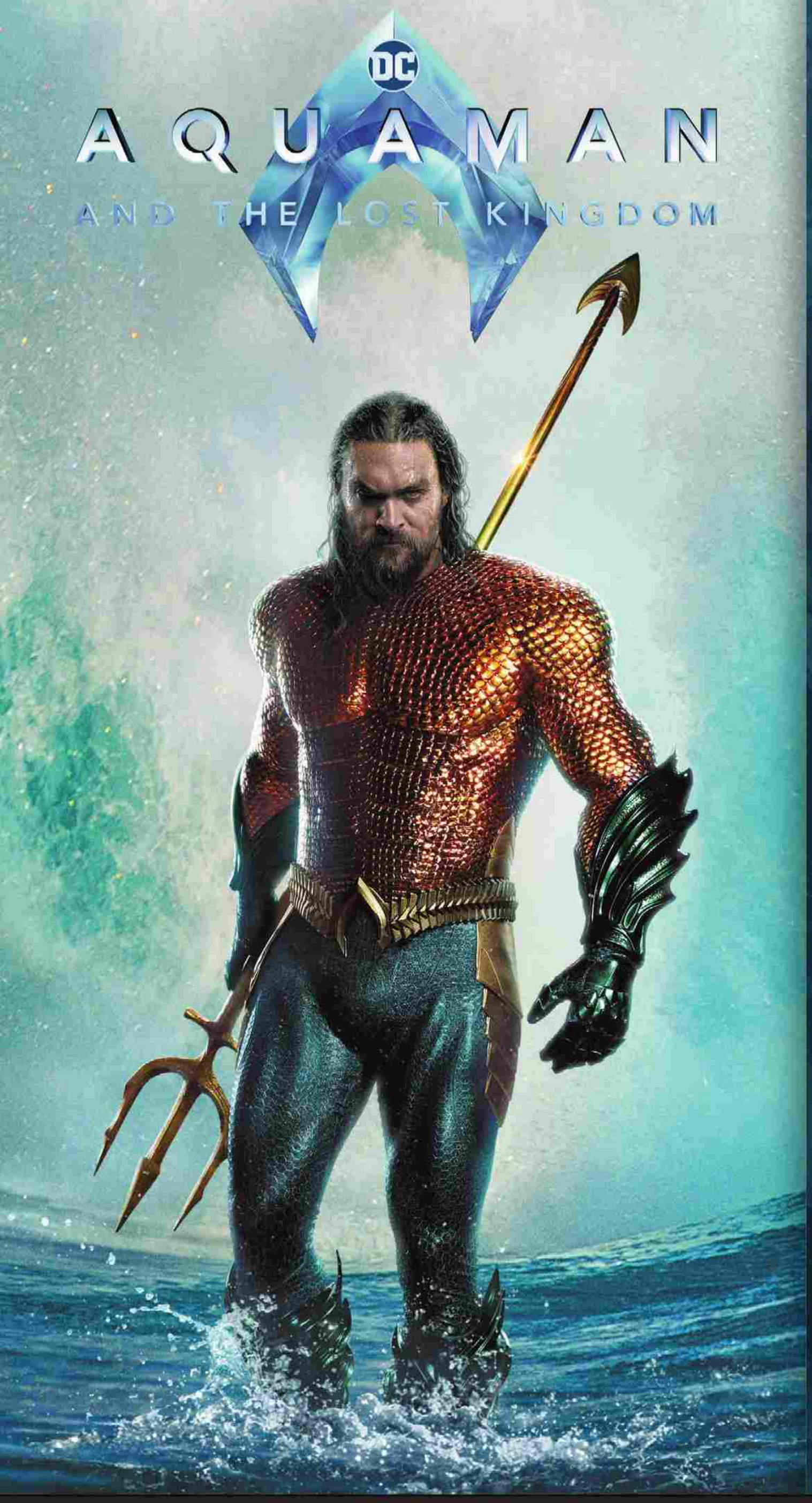
4 ISSUES
DECEMBER

Main cover by **DAN MORA**

DC NATION INTERVIEW

JAMES WAN
DIRECTOR OF

AQUAMAN AND THE LOST KINGDOM



What was the process of crafting the story for *Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom*?

We knew moving forward that the sequel needed to grow and embellish upon the first film. We knew that we wanted to dive deeper into this world and build upon the first movie, but take it in a more mature direction. That was very important for all of us. We knew that the first film was really fun, and it was important to keep that spirit, but we also wanted to say a bit more.

Did you look to any comic book material for inspiration?

For writer David Leslie Johnson-McGoldrick and myself, we really fell in love with this character in the Silver Age of comics, which was the '50s and '60s. We knew we wanted the story to embrace that and have the film visually feel like a bit of a retro callback to that time period.

How does Aquaman and Orm's relationship connect to the core of the film?

The heart of this movie is really about two brothers setting aside their differences to come together for a great cause and find a middle ground. It doesn't matter what genre I make my movies in; it always comes back to the human aspect of the characters. I'm a big fan of human relationships. For me, really the heart of this film is the relationship between Arthur and Orm.

What would you like to say to the Aquaman fans?

For the fans of Aquaman, and especially the fans of the comic book, I stayed very true to that world. I'm a genuine fan of the Aquaman comic books, his origin, and I really respect the spirit of what he was intended to be.

I try to lean into that even more with this film to capture a hero who fights for the environment. Aquaman is very different from other, land-based superheroes. He has such an interesting world that he operates in. He meets all kinds of interesting characters, and I just wanted to honor that.

AQUAMAN AND THE LOST KINGDOM

IN THEATERS DECEMBER 22!

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